

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sheet feeding apparatus comprising:
 - a sheet supporting stand arranged to support a bundle of sheets in an erect posture;
 - 5 an aligning portion arranged to vibrate the bundle of sheets upward and downward and move the bundle of sheets in a sheet feeding direction while supporting the bundle of sheets at at least two locations of said sheet supporting stand; and
 - 10 a hitting portion arranged to be hit against leading edges of the bundle of sheets moved by said aligning portion.
2. A sheet feeding apparatus according to claim
15 1, wherein said aligning portion includes a vibrating member for vibrating the bundle of sheets by repeatedly lifting at least two locations of a bottom portion of the bundle of sheets.
- 20 3. A sheet feeding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said vibrating member is a rotary member to be rotated in the sheet feeding direction, and a height of a portion of said rotary member projecting from a surface of said sheet supporting stand is
25 adapted to change in accordance with a rotational angle of said rotary member.

4. A sheet feeding apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said rotary member has an eccentric cylindrical shape.

5 5. A sheet feeding apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said rotary member has a cam shape.

6. A sheet feeding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said aligning portion is adapted to remain
10 stationary in a position in which said aligning portion is retracted from said sheet supporting stand, or in a position in which a portion of said aligning portion projects from said sheet supporting stand, when said aligning portion does not align the bundle
15 of sheets.

7. A sheet feeding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
an aligning wall; and
20 a pressure portion arranged to thrust the sheets against said aligning wall, during aligning operation of said aligning portion said pressure portion being moved to a position in which said pressure portion does not hinder the aligning
25 operation of said aligning portion.

8. A sheet feeding apparatus according to claim

1, wherein said hitting portion is retractably disposed downstream in the sheet feeding direction, and said hitting portion is moved to a position in which said hitting portion does not hinder movement
5 of the sheet during sheet feeding operation, while said hitting portion is moved to a position in which said hitting portion is projected to hit against the sheet moved by said aligning portion and hinder move of the sheet in the sheet feeding direction during
10 sheet non-feeding operation.

9. A sheet feeding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a setting portion arranged to set at least one of operation time of said aligning
15 portion, the number of the vibrations of the bundle of sheets, and a vertical amplitude of the vibrations of the bundle of sheets.

10. A sheet feeding apparatus according to
20 claim 1, further comprising:

a detecting portion arranged to detect the amount of the sheets placed on said sheet supporting stand; and

a changing portion arranged to change at least
25 one of operation time of said aligning portion, the number of the vibrations of the bundle of sheets, and a vertical amplitude of the vibrations of the bundle

of sheets in accordance with the amount detected by said detecting portion.

11. A sheet feeding apparatus according to
5 claim 1, further comprising an instructing portion arranged to instruct whether or not to execute a mode in which the sheets should not be fed after aligning operation by said aligning portion.

10 12. A sheet feeding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a separating portion arranged to separate the sheet one by one from the bundle of sheets after aligning operation by said aligning portion.

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